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DEKALB COUNTY'S STEWART FAMILY CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission recently added Stewart Family Cemetery in Fort Payne to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

Stewart Family Cemetery is the very first cemetery in Dekalb County to be listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 237 cemeteries statewide.

In 1845, Samuel Stewart established a home on the land where the cemetery is located. All documented burials are connected with the Stewart family and their descendants. The earliest death date recorded on a grave marker is that of K.B. Stewart, who died November 3, 1861. Other names of Stewart family descendants in the cemetery include Ashberry, Moore, Sizemore, Swader, and Taylor. There are numerous marked and unmarked burials in this cemetery.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.

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